



2013 Deer Trustee Report

Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

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Action Team: Science/Research	Predator Studies and Management C.1.
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This document shows the original Deer Trustee Report recommendation that the Public Action Team considered when developing proposals for implementing the recommendation in Wisconsin. The Public Action Team's implementation proposal is presented then followed by additional background information.

I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION

C.1. Continue to conduct research on the impacts of predators on the deer herd. Widely differing opinions of public and academic origin exist on the impacts of predators on Wisconsin's deer herd, but sufficient documentation of these relationships has been lacking. The recently initiated survival and cause-specific mortality study in northern and east-central Wisconsin is a great step in the right direction to provide much needed information for management. We recommend conducting similar types of field-based research studies in other locations across the state, as resources become available, to document the variability of predator impacts in various regions with differing landscape and habitat characteristics.

II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION

Below is the Public Action Team implementation proposal along with their rationale and supporting evidence, potential implementation obstacles and consideration of the proposal's potential impact on the overall deer management in Wisconsin.

1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

- The team endorsed the recommendation.
- The team recommended implementation actions:
 - Continue to support high-quality research on predators, including geospatial studies and sustainable harvest of predators, in order to monitor trends in population growth and depredation, and communicate research methods and findings with neighboring states.
 - Recommend alternative funding and support for predator studies, especially wolves.
 - Evaluate and implement new research methodologies that are validated and applicable, including:
 - Support the trail camera study of predators
 - Encourage expanded use of rigorous, scientific, citizen monitoring (e.g., hunters, loggers, Wisconsin Conservation Congress members, mail carriers, private sector/corporate), scat and other surveys.
 - Expand research to different parts of the state
 - Communicate the research and results with the public.

2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information to help others understand the proposed idea and perspective behind it.

- Citizen science is an emerging field and has been used successfully in the state.
- Other out-of-state agencies use corporate and private sector based monitoring.



Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks to your proposal and possible remedies to address these during implementation.

- Stable funding (could be addressed with fee increases, special stamps and grant-writing partnerships with University researchers).

4. Overall, consider and describe how the proposal might simplify or complicate deer hunting, management or scientific research in Wisconsin?

- May require additional data collection from hunters at check station or using standardized observation protocol.
- May draw funding from priority research in other areas.
- May require special hunting regulations to implement study designs.